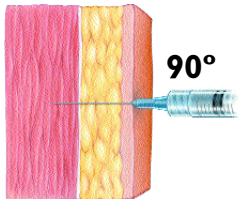


# Anatomic Sites *for* IMMUNIZATION

## INTRAMUSCULAR (IM)

### Vaccines given intramuscularly (IM):

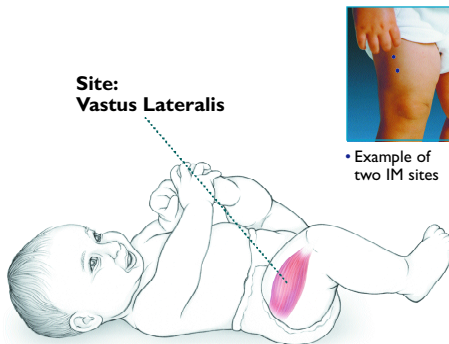
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- *Haemophilus influenzae*, type b
- Hepatitis A • Hepatitis B • Influenza
- Meningococcal Conjugate
- Pneumococcal Conjugate



Intramuscular (IM) Needle Size:  
**23–25 gauge**  
Needle Length:  
**1"**

### • Infant/Toddler Intramuscular Shot

Age: 0–36 months



• Example of two IM sites

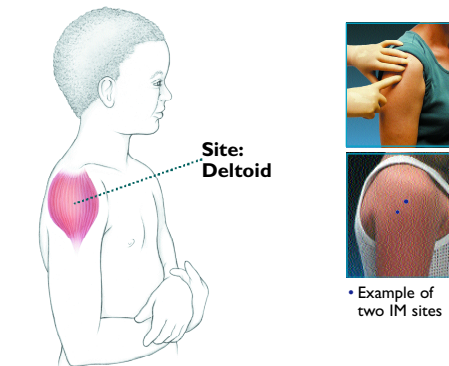


Intramuscular shots in infants and toddlers are usually given in the anterolateral thigh. The vastus lateralis muscle is on the outside of the leg in the mid- to upper-thigh.

Use 23–25 gauge, 1" needle. Insert entire needle at 90° angle.

### • Child/Adult Intramuscular Shot

Age: 3 years–Adult



• Example of two IM sites



Intramuscular injections to children and adults are usually given in the upper arm. The deltoid muscle is found about 3 fingers below the acromion, above the level of the armpit.

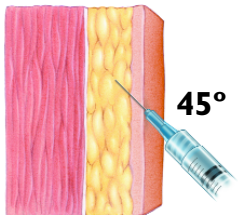
Use 23–25 gauge, 1" needle. Insert entire needle at 90° angle. A 1½" needle may be needed for large adults.

## SUBCUTANEOUS (SC)

### Vaccines given subcutaneously (SC):

- Inactivated Polio Vaccine\*
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide\*
- Varicella

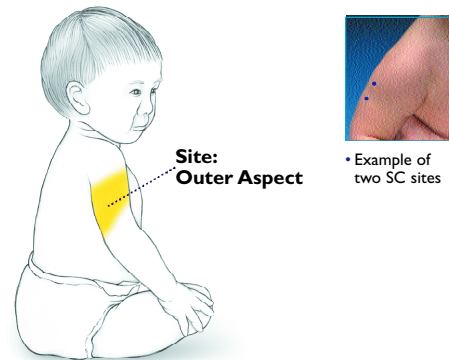
\*Can also be given IM



Subcutaneous (SC) Needle Size:  
**25 gauge**  
Needle Length:  
**5/8"**

### • Infant/Toddler Subcutaneous Shot

Age: 0–36 months



• Example of two SC sites

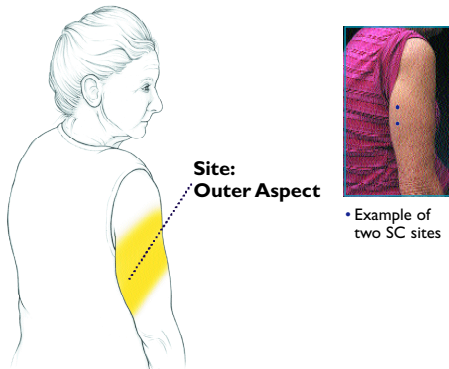


Subcutaneous shots in infants and toddlers are given either in the upper arm or in the fatty area of the thigh. The tissue is "pinched" up between the thumb and index finger.

Use 25 gauge, 5/8" needle. Insert entire needle at 45° angle.

### • Child/Adult Subcutaneous Shot

Age: 3 years–Adult



• Example of two SC sites



Given in the upper arm. The tissue on the back of the upper arm is "pinched" up between the thumb and index finger.

Use 25 gauge, 5/8" needle. Insert entire needle at 45° angle.



Produced by the Immunization Branch, California Department of Health Services.